SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the irrigation potential created, potential that is in the process of being created and he has hinted that it can only depend on the co-operation of Nepal which is not correct. We have created enough irrigation potential in Bihar and Bihar is one of the States which has used the highest irrigation potential which has been created.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, I seek your protection. I have asked about rivers flowing from Nepal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am asking it. He has asked about rivers flowing from Nepal and whether anything is being done. That is the question.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the rivers that are coming from Nepal are not only with reference to Bihar but other States also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you got any plans or schemes?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We have a scheme, in order to have reservoir storage built in Nepal so as to have flood control in Bihar and this project has also got irrigation potential.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Lakshmanna. Now you have got some answer. Earlier you would have got nothing.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether in taking the decision that the irrigation project's drinking water component would have to be cleared until the water resources policy is formulated, the thinking is to provide water for those villages and areas which are within the command area or those areas also which are outside the command area but which need potential water as drinking water. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister what exactly he has in his mind or what is in the mind of the Government in formulating a policy of this nature?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, I can inform the House that this year we had held regional meetings in the country—we had five regional meetings and covered the entire regions of the country with all the State and Union territory Irrigation Ministers—and it was the unanimous view of all of them that there should be drinking water supply component in irrigation projects and that it should be made applicable for the concerned area and projects should not be cleared till this component is not there.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman. Sir, the Minister has given so many replies but the main question which was asked—about projects which are pending clearance—was not clearly replied to. For example, in Andhra Pradesh there are four important projects, namely, Telugu Ganga—which is a drinking water project in addition to irrigation—then the Polavaram project, the Vamsadhara project and the Yeleru project. These are the four important projects which are pending clearance from the Central Government. A deputation has been sent to the Central Government. As a matter of fact, all our MPs met the Prime and also the Irrigation Minister. Our Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, also has met the Prime Minister and impressed upon the Central Government the need for early clearance of these projects. So far, every time the answer has been, "It is under consideration." These four are very important projects. As a matter of fact we want that all the States should be developed, all the project areas should be prosperous and the drinking water should be provided to Madras city apart from irrigating . Ravalaseema which is a drought-affected area. So, I would like to know from the Minister as to how much more time it will take for the clearance of these projects.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, we will not take a minute more once the requirements are fulfilled by the State Government with reference to clearance of the projects.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question—No. 23. Mr. Sambasiva Rao....Absent.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He is very much there. He is never present. For the first time he is present.

Integrated fisheries policy

*23. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate an integrated fisheries policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Aims and objectives in regard to implementation of various plan schemes in fisheries during Seventh Five Year Plan under-scores an integrated approach for development of fisheries in the country.

Various Plan schemes ensure development of infrastructure facilities, utilisation and conservation of different types of acquatic resources for fish production, raising the productivity of water bodies through transfer of appropriate technology, provision of employment and source of income generation to the people with special reference to rural poor, provision of much required protein nutrition to the people, welfare measures and earning of foreign exchange for the country.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister the details of the assistance being given to the fishermen by the Central Government.... (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, there are two or three schemes for the welfare of fishermen under which money is provided for their welfare. One is the National Welfare Fund for Fishermen under which in the Seventh Five-Year Plan Rs. 400 lakhs are provided; for the year 1986-87 it is Rs. 62 lakhs. There is another scheme, a Group Insurance Scheme for active fishermen under which in the Seventh Five-Year Plan Rs. 150 lakhs are provided for the peresent year Rs. 30 lakhs are provided. There is another scheme for the techno-economic survey of fishermen. All these schemes help the fishermen, particularly the active fishermen.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: What measures do the Government propose to take for the welfare of fishermen in the current financial year?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, I have said that there is a National Welfare Fund for Fishermen. A society is formed and the fund is placed at the disposal of the society which provides funds for their health care, for the education of their children, for providing drinking water, for providing roads, etc. So, this is for their welfare.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, I would like to know, in view of the target and availability of a large marine area under the Exclusive Economic Zone, of about 2.5 million hectares and in view also of the fact that during the Sixth Plan we have not been able to achieve the targets of having 300 deep-sea fishing vessels whether the Government will be able to achieve the target of having 300 to 500 vessels by the end of the current Plan, Particularly in view of the fact that the resource constraint is there and the SDFC, Shipping Development Committee does not have funds at the present moment, I would like to know whether the Minister would consider having joint ventures with foreign participation so that the resource constraint particularly of foreign currency can be tided over. I have a suggestion that it is possible in view of the recession in the shipping industry, that there are a number of countries which will come forward for joint companies for hundred per cent export. What is the view of the Minister in this reagrd?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, this is a good suggestion, and it is under the consideration of the Government, joint venture in deep-sea fishing. The policy issue of joint venture programme is now with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for consideration. So, that is one of the programmes that we are taking up, joint ventures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since people are interested in the next question, I pass on to the next question, No. 24.